

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 2 and 3 were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Amended Claims 2 and 3 have been simply rewritten in independent form and are allowable.

Amended Claim 4 has been amended to indicate that the slip spider is disposed at the well head (and not at the elevator). This is supported at page 7, lines 7-9, of the specification. Amended Claim 4 should now be allowable.

Amended Claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the control member is disposed within a slip wedge. This is consistent with the Fig. 2 embodiment and should now be allowable.

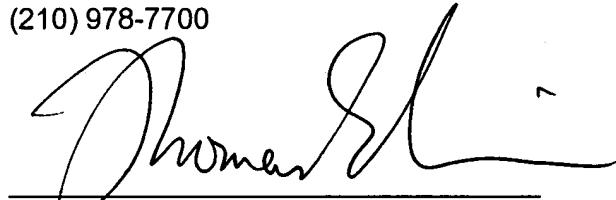
Amended Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the pipe or casing slip is not a part of the derrick, the draw works, or the elevator.... The slip is “disposed on, within, or beneath a rotary table.” Nothing in the prior art teaches the invention as claimed in amended Claim 1. The Examiner combined Albright with Hooper to reject original Claim 1. However, Hooper teaches that the slips are disposed at the elevator and not on, within, or beneath the rotary table as is now claimed in amended Claim 1.

The Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the amended claims and issue a Notice of Allowance.

An additional fee of \$200 has been provided because there are now five independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: RESPONSE/FEE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date:

August 11, 2005

Shirley McIntyre

